Fort Dorchester High

8500 Patriot Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29420

Grades	9-12 High School	
Enrollment	1,979 Students	
Principal	Timothy C. Payne	843-760-4450
Superintendent	Joseph R. Pye	843-873-2901
Board Chair	Bufort Blanton, Jr.	843-873-2901

The State of South Carolina

Annual School Report Card   2003

ABSOLUTE RATING: **EXCELLENT**

Absolute Ratings of High Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
16	5	0	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING: **EXCELLENT**

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS: **N/A**

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

For More Information, visit websites at:
www.myscschools.com
www.sceoc.org

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Good	Below Average	N/A
2002	Good	Below Average	N/A
2003	Excellent	Excellent	N/A
2004			

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	74.6	67.5	74.1	75.6	74.1	73.5
Passed 2 subtests	16.9	18.5	15.4	14.4	14.7	14.8
Passed 1 subtest	5.6	10.7	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.0
Passed no subtests	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.9	3.9

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	397	97.7	376	16.8	445	76.4
Gender						
Male	207	98.1	182	13.7	225	70.7
Female	190	97.4	194	19.6	220	82.3
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	111	95.5	107	3.7	138	68.1
Hispanic	5	100.0	7	14.3	10	50.0
White	267	99.3	254	22.4	289	81.0
Other	11	81.8	8	12.5	8	87.5
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	11	90.9	37	0.0	46	41.3
Students without disabilities	386	97.9	339	18.6	399	80.5
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	5	80.0	376	16.8	0	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	2	I/S	1	I/S	2	I/S
Non-LEP	393	98.0	375	16.8	442	76.9
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	40	92.5	41	7.3	74	47.3
Full-pay meals	354	98.6	335	17.9	371	82.2

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	16.8	22.4
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	18.9	23.8
Seniors who met the grade point average	46.0	55.7

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n= 1,979)				
Retention rate	7.3%	Down from 7.8%	7.4%	7.3%
Attendance rate	95.9%	Up from 95.3%	95.7%	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	No change	8.8%	5.1%
With disabilities other than speech	11.5%	Up from 11.1%	10.3%	12.2%
Older than usual for grade	8.3%	Down from 8.6%	8.1%	10.1%
Suspended or expelled	5.6%	Up from 4.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	15.2%	N/A	N/A	10.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual dropout rate	4.4%	Up from 3.6%	2.8%	2.7%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	5.2%	Up from 3.2%	2.3%	3.2%
Enrollment in career/technology center courses	1086	Up from 1008	796	433
Students participating in worked-based experiences	62.2%	Up from 52.6%	24.8%	26.3%
Career/technology students mastering core competencies	70.4%	Down from 81.6%	76.4%	74.9%
Career/technology completers placed	100.0%	No change	100.0%	99.5%
Teachers (n= 110)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	55.5%	Down from 58.7%	54.0%	51.7%
Continuing contract teachers	87.3%	Up from 84.4%	83.1%	81.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	88.5%	Up from 86.5%	86.3%	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	94.4%	Down from 95.0%	95.7%	95.8%
Average teacher salary	$39,884	Up 0.5%	$40,632	$40,303
Prof. development days/teacher	7.6 days	Up from 5.7 days	8.6 days	10.3 days
School				
Principal's years at school	3.5	Up from 2.5	3.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	28.5 to 1	Up from 27.8 to 1	28.3 to 1	26.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.1%	Down from 89.9%	91.3%	90.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	$5,648	Up 2.3%	$5,420	$6,279
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	59.2%	Up from 58.0%	58.3%	57.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	87.8%	Up from 59.4%	87.5%	87.8%
SACS accreditation	yes	N/A	yes	yes

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable   **N/C** Not Collected   **N/R** Not Reported   **I/S** Insufficient Sample

Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Fort Dorchester High School is located in North Charleston, S. C. and has an enrollment of 1982 students and a professional staff of 129. During the past school year, we have experienced times of sadness, loss, and defeat as well as times of laughter, gain, and victory. We have continued to maintain our focus on quality education. Meeting the needs of all students and providing them with the necessary tools to be successful are our main objectives.

Students from Fort Dorchester have been recognized at local, state and national levels including: A. F. J. R. O. T. C. unit won the governor's Trophy at the SC State Championship Drill meet, our Culinary Arts Teacher was named the 2003 SC ProStart Teacher of the Year, our yearbook was voted by the publisher as a "sample copy" for the fourth consecutive year, our school nurse won the American Red Cross Neighborhood Hero Good Samaritan award, F. D. H. S. received 1st place in "Best Recycling Efforts", two students were 2003 merit scholarship finalists, nine athletes were named to all region, three chemistry students won the Chemagination contest, the stock market game was won for the 3rd consecutive semester, two Patriot coaches were named as A. F. L. A. C. National assistant coaches of the year, Quest team placed second in level 4. Additionally, two seniors received a military academy appointment, and the class of 2003 was offered over $6.2 million in scholarships.

Fort Dorchester continues to be challenged by the number of students retained in the ninth grade.   We have implemented a Patriot Academy that address the specific needs to ninth graders by focusing on our concerns related to dropout rates, low student performance, low academic standings, sub-par test scores, and high numbers of discipline referrals. In the first year of Patriot Academy, we have drastically reduced the number of ninth grade expulsions, reduced the number of failures in core academic courses, and increased the number of students participating in honors, Pre-IB, AP, and IB courses.

As the principal of Fort Dorchester High School, I am encouraged by the upward trend toward improving the quality of education provided to all students. We intend to continue producing high quality students during a time of major cuts in educational funding, reduction in professional staff, and growing apathy towards education. The faculty, staff, and students have risen to the challenges at hand and have worked to overcome these obstacles.   The dynamically productive administrative team supporting me as principal also works tirelessly in support of the faculty and staff as they focus on our school's most valuable asset-the students.

Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Number of surveys returned	114	312	20
Percent satisfied with learning environment	93.0%	70.2%	85.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.4%	79.6%	80.0%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	71.4%	81.1%	85.0%

Definitions of School Rating Terms

- Excellent - School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

Definition of Adequate Yearly Progress

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specified that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.